

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ROANOKE DIVISION

ANDREW WOLTERS,
Plaintiff,

v.

ERIC HOLDER, et al.,
Defendants.

) Civil Action No. 7:12-cv-00096
)
)
)

) MEMORANDUM OPINION
)

) By: Hon. Jackson L. Kiser
) Senior United States District Judge

Andrew Wolters, a federal inmate proceeding pro se, filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics, 403 U.S. 388 (1971), with jurisdiction vested in 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Plaintiff did not pay the \$350 filing fee and asks to proceed in forma pauperis. See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914(a), 1915. The court granted plaintiff the opportunity to support his application to proceed in forma pauperis with an inmate account report and statement of assets. The court warned plaintiff that prior dismissals for frivolity or failing to state a claim would limit his ability to proceed in forma pauperis.

The court finds that plaintiff had at least three non-habeas civil complaints or appeals previously dismissed as frivolous, as malicious, or for failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. Wolters v. Federal Bureau of Prisons, No. 10-30717, slip op. at 1-2 (5th Cir. Jan. 11, 2011) (appeal dismissed as frivolous); Wolters v. Federal Bureau of Prisons, No. 08-cv-0837, slip op. at 1 (W.D. La. July 5, 2010) (action dismissed with prejudice as frivolous and for failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted); Wolters v. Hunter, No. 1:07-cv-02290, slip op. at 4 (D. Colo. Mar. 2, 2009) (action dismissed with prejudice for failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted). See Henslee v. Keller, No. 11-6707, slip op. at 10 (4th Cir. June 5, 2012) (prohibiting a district court dismissal to be considered a third strike while the dismissal is being appealed). In accordance with the three-strikes provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), the Court

of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit previously advised plaintiff that he needed to submit the \$350.00 filing fee or establish an imminent threat of serious physical harm to proceed with a civil suit once he accumulates three “strikes,” pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Wolters v. Federal Bureau of Prisons, No. 10-30717, slip op. at 2.

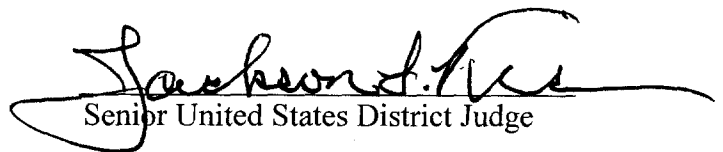
Plaintiff names as defendants to this action Eric Holder, the Attorney General of the United States, and C. Zych, the Warden of the United States Penitentiary in Lee County, Virginia (“USP Lee”). Plaintiff complains that a cellmate in general population at USP Lee tried to rape plaintiff on January 31, 2011, allegedly at the request of correctional staff as retaliation for filing grievances and complaints about USP Lee staff. A correctional officer denied plaintiff’s request to be moved into protective custody. Once plaintiff signed an affidavit about the sexual assault, a correctional officer told plaintiff that the affidavit would be passed around to other inmates. A cellmate assaulted plaintiff in segregation on February 4, 2011, and the struggle resulted in plaintiff breaking a finger and injuring his eye. Plaintiff is unsatisfied with medical staffs’ diagnoses and treatment of plaintiff’s finger. Bureau of Prisons’ staff refuse to respond to plaintiff’s grievances.

After reviewing plaintiff’s complaint in this action, it is clear that plaintiff does not establish that he is currently under any imminent threat of any serious physical injury within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). See, e.g., Martin v. Shelton, 319 F.3d 1048, 1050 (8th Cir. 2003) (requiring proof of an ongoing serious physical injury or a pattern of misconduct evidencing the likelihood of imminent serious physical injury); Ashley v. Dilworth, 147 F.3d 715, 717 (8th Cir. 1998) (“Allegations that the prisoner has faced imminent danger in the past are insufficient to trigger th[e] exception to § 1915(g). . . .”). Plaintiff’s allegations of systemic

retaliation within the Bureau of Prisons have already been considered by a federal court, which resulted in one of plaintiff's three strikes. Furthermore, plaintiff was housed at a federal penitentiary in Pennsylvania when he instituted this action, and thus, plaintiff could not have been in imminent danger of serious physical harm in Pennsylvania about the conditions previously experienced in Virginia. Moreover, a prisoner's disagreement with medical personnel over the course of treatment does not state a § 1983 claim. Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841, 849 (4th Cir. 1985). See Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 105-06 (1976) (noting claims of medical malpractice and negligent diagnosis are not cognizable in a civil rights action). Accordingly, I dismiss the action without prejudice for plaintiff's failure to pay the filing fee at the time of filing the complaint. See, e.g., Dupree v. Palmer, 284 F.3d 1234, 1237 (11th Cir. 2002) (reasoning that the filing fee is due upon filing a civil action when in forma pauperis provisions do not apply to plaintiff and that the court is not required to permit plaintiff an opportunity to pay the filing fee if plaintiff is ineligible to proceed in forma pauperis).

The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Memorandum Opinion and the accompanying Order to plaintiff.

ENTER: This 3rd day of July, 2012.


Senior United States District Judge